

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

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R 081655 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2583

DIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

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DEPT PASS CAIRO

EO 11652: N/ A DECON 6-8-74

TAGS: PINS PINT LE SY

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SYRIAN RELATIONS

REF: BEIRUT 6565

SUMMARY: 1 STATE OF LEB SYRIAN RELATIONS BECOMING MORE CONFUSED
AND BITTER EACH PASSING DAY. WITH SARG COMPLAINTS/ THREATS
AGAINST GOL INCREASING IN NUMBER AND VAGUENESS. OFFICIAL SYRIAN
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MEDIA HAVE BEGUN REPORTING SARG PREPARATIONS FOR NEW ANTI GOL MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO WHAT THEY DESCRIBE AS HEIGHTENING OF GOL "CAMPAIGN" AGAINST LOCAL "PROGRESSIVE" FORCES AND FEDAYEEN, BUT THEY FAIL MENTION NATURE OR TIMING OF SUCH MEASURES AND, EXCEPT FOR MENTION OF ONE OR TWO INCIDENTS OF "MALTREATMENT" BY LEG ARMY IN RECENT DAYS, ARE PARTICULARLY RETICENT ABOUT DETAILS.

2. SYRIAN FONMIN KHADDAM, IN MEETING WITH DELEGATION OF LEB SUNNI MOSLEM LEADERS JUN 7, REPORTEDLY CHARGED GOL STILL PLANS "LIQUIDATE" FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT AT SOME PROPITIOUS MOMENT IN FUTURE AND IN MEANTIME IS ESCALATING ACTS OF PROVOCATION AGAINST FEDAYEEN AND SYRIANS IN LEBANON. HE ALLEGED 3,000 SYRIANS ARE BEING HELD IN LEB JAILS AND CLAIMED OTHER SYRIANS AND PALESTINIANS ARE BEING INSULTED AND BEATEN DAILY BY ARMY AND POLICE. HE ALSO COMPLAINED VAGUELY ABOUT ANTI SARG ACTIVITY BY SYRIAN EXILES HERE AND ANTI SYRIAN CAMPAIGNS IN BEIRUT PRESS. KHADDAM ADDED THAT SYRIANS IN LEB-- "MANY" OF WHOM WERE KILLED AND "THOUSANDS" EXPELLED DURING MAY FIGHTING ARE AROUSED AND DEMANDING SARG RETALIATION AGAINST GOL. SAID LEB PRIMIN HAFEZ ("A VERY WEAK MAN ... WE DONT KNOW WHO GOVERNS LEBANON") HAD TOLD HIM OF REPORTS THAT LEBANESE ARMY HAD ASSISTED IDF IN APRIL 10 RAID ON BEIRUT, "REPORTS WHICH GOL NOW DENIES".

3. ALTHOUGH KHADDAM APPEARD CAREFUL TO AVOID SPECIFICS (WHICH GOL HAS REPEATEDLY ASKED HIM TO PROVIDE), WE NOTE DAMASCUS RADIO HAS CITED AS EXAMPLES ONLY JUNE 6 ARRESTS OF FOUR LEBANESE PRO SYRIAN BAATHISTS ON CHARGES OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY HERE AND INCIDENT NEXT DAY IN WHICH SA-IQA LEADER ZUHAYR MUHSEN WAS ARRESTED AND HELD FOR 3 HOURS AT ARMY ROADBLOCK ON MAIN ROAD TO DAMASCUS. (GOL AUTHORITIES LATER APOLOGIZED TO MUHSEN AND RETURNED WEAPONS CONFISCATED FROM HIM.) BAGHDAD RADIO HAS BEEN TO ECHO SYRIAN COMPLAINTS (FBIS M080905) IN WHAT IS OBVIOUSLY CONCERTED AND WELL ORCHESTRATED PRESSURE CAMPAIGN BEING CONDUCTED FOR PURPOSES WHICH REMAIN LARGELY OBSCURE. NONE OF IT APPEARS HAVE HAD MUCH EFFECT ON PRES FRANGIES REFUSAL TO KNUCKLE UNDER TO SARG AND LEFTIST INTIMIDATION (REFTEL, ALTHOUGH IT HAS PRODUCED STEADY PROCESSION OF LEBANESE POLITICAL FIGURES AND OTHER NOTABLES TO DAMASCUS FOR "TALKS" WITH SARG OFFICIALS.

4. INTERNALL POLITICAL SITUATION ALSO REMAINS CONFUSED, WITH AGITATION

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AMONG SUNNI MOSLEM AND LEFTIST LEADERS (KARAME, SALAM, GRAND MUFTI, JUMBLATT, ETC.) FOR PRIMIN HAFEZ RESIGNATION CONTINUING TO MOUNT, AMID INCREASING RUMORS THAT HAFEZ MAY SOON SUCCUMB (FOR THIRD TIME) TO SUCH PRESSURES. FRANGIE APPEARS TO HAVE ADOPTED MORE DETACHED VIEW THAN HERETOFORE DUE TO INCREASINGLY SOLID OPPOSITION TO HAFEZ DESPITE FRANGIES EFFORTS DRUM UP SUPPORT. (ANOTHER FACTOR MAY WILL BE FRANGIES LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR

AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS SO EASILY SWAYED BY ALMOST ANY ADVICE OR
CRITICISM WHICH COMES TO HIS EARS.) FRANGIE REPORTEDLY TOLD MOSLEM
LEADERS JUN 7 AND OTHER DEPUTIES ON JUN 8 THAT DEMOCRATIC, PARLIA-
MENTARY PROCEDURES SHOULD BE ALLOWED DETERMINE FATE OF FAHEZ GOVT;
THAT IF HAFEZ SHOULD
DECIDE RESIGN RATHER THAN FACE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE ON JUN 12, HE
PERFECTLY FREE TO DO SO; AND THAT IF HE FAILS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE,
THAT IS WAS DEMOCRACY SHOULD FUNCTION.

HOUGHTON

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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